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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,973	02/23/2004	Shougo Sato	118785	7718
25944 7590 02/21/2007 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER NGO, HOANG X	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2852	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/21/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/782,973

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Hoang Ngo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-32, and 40-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-32, and 40-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/18/06, 11/7/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/8/2006 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The indicated allowability of claims 1-7, 9-32, and 40-72 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Yamamoto et al (US 6,381,428). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7, 9-32, and 40-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al (US 6,381,428).

Yamamoto et al disclose an image forming apparatus comprising a mainframe 200; a plurality of photoreceptors 1; an exposing unit 4; and a plurality of developing

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units 5; and an evacuating unit that evacuates the developing unit from a moving path of the photoreceptor by moving the developing unit along a direction away from the photoreceptor during loading and unloading of the photoreceptor (see Fig. 5 and Col. 12, line 10-15 for loading and unloading of the developing units); wherein the photoreceptor is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe separately from the developing unit (Fig. 5, Col. 10, line 1-15).

Yamamoto further disclose a photoreceptor cartridge 22 that retains the photoreceptor and is loadable and unloadable from the mainframe while being separated from the developing unit (Col. 14, line 22-30); the photoreceptor includes a plurality of retained photoreceptors for a plurality of colors (Col. 4, line 57-58); and the photoreceptor cartridge is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe by moving the photoreceptor along in a direction that is parallel to a conveying direction of a transfer medium (Col. 13, line 55-65); the photoreceptor cartridge includes a charger 3 that charges the surface of the photoreceptor prior to formation of the electrostatic latent image and the mainframe includes a guide part that guides movement of the photoreceptor cartridge (see Fig. 5 for loading and unloading of the photoreceptor cartridge); the developing unit is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe in a direction that crosses a conveying direction of the transfer medium and is perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the photoreceptor (Fig. 5); the plurality of photoreceptors corresponding to black color that is exchangeable separately from the other photoreceptors Col. 4, line 57-58); a first openable member provided on the mainframe and a transfer unit that transfers a developer image carried on the photoreceptor and

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the mainframe has a first opening that is opened and closed with the first openable member and the photoreceptor is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe through the first opening (Fig. 5); the photoreceptor faces the transfer unit at a transferring position and the exposing unit is disposed on a side of the photoreceptor opposite to the transferring position and overlaps with the photoreceptor in a horizontal direction (Fig. 1).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2138. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00am - 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray can be reached on (571) 272-2119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hoang Ngo

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Primary Examiner
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Hn

February 14, 2007